

2002 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus -

The focus of WRP in North Dakota is to provide habitat for wildlife and migratory birds, including threatened and endangered species.

Customer Focus -

In 2000, Ken and Ardyth Rue, Steele County landowners, enrolled this site of 89.5 acres in WRP. It had been in the Water Bank program and that contract expired in 1999.



Ken stated, "WRP is a good program for marginally productive land and is also beneficial for wildlife reproduction."



North Dakota Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary wetland restoration program designed to assist eligible landowners in restoring and protecting wetlands using three enrollment options. These options include permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements. In North Dakota, only the 30-year easement and restoration cost-share agreements options are available due to State law, which prohibits permanent wetland easements. The focus of WRP in North Dakota has been to provide habitat for wildlife and migratory birds, including threatened and endangered species. North Dakota is a major player in the production of ducks, Canada geese, and other waterfowl in North America.

Accomplishments

From 1995 through 2002, North Dakota funded 77 contracts covering 13,294 acres. These contracts consist of 55 easements on 10,517 acres and 22 agreements on 2,667 acres. In 2002, North Dakota NRCS technical staff provided \$200,000 worth of technical assistance to private landowners in developing wetland habitat projects worth \$1 million.

Program Benefits

The three types of WRP restoration projects most often enrolled are prairie pothole restoration, flood plain restoration, and riparian corridor. The main function of pothole restoration is for waterfowl production, while the main function of flood plain restoration is to contain flood flows and to improve water quality. Riparian corridors connect protected areas, providing a safe corridor for wildlife. WRP restoration activities often involve filling in drainage ditches, installing water control structures, and planting native vegetation. North Dakota has developed several partnerships in this effort to restore wetlands under WRP. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, and Ducks Unlimited have provided financial incentives to landowners for restoration practices. The WRP Incentive is a partnership program between USDA and North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD), which provides additional incentives to producers enrolling their land in WRP. The NDGFD is offering one time incentive payments on WRP signups. NDGFD will provide additional 15 percent of the appraised land value above the amount NRCS pays for a 30-year WRP easement. Therefore, producers who successfully enroll their land in the USDA/NDGFD partnership receive up to 90 percent of the appraised value of their land. Nine landowners are currently enrolled in the program since it became available in July 2002.

State Contact

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North Dakota Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2002		Cumulative Total (97-02)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$1,000,000	12	\$6,627,000	77
State Totals	\$1,000,000	12	\$6,627,000	77

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